



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Northern District of Iowa

401 First Street, SE
Suite 400
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-1825

319-363-6333
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July 31, 2009

Mr. Doug Newmann
Executive Director
Economic Planning and Redevelopment Corp
Cedar Rapids Downtown District

Re: Proposed Parking Ramp Adjacent to New United States Courthouse

Dear Mr. Newmann:

This is to support the combined efforts of the City of Cedar Rapids, Economic Planning and Redevelopment Corp, and Cedar Rapids Downtown District to build a 524-space parking ramp adjacent to the new federal courthouse now under construction in Cedar Rapids.

In our view, such a ramp will be sorely needed when the new courthouse is completed. Our office alone employs about 50 people in Cedar Rapids who will require daily parking. More than 340 employees in total will work in the building when completed. In addition, members of the public, witnesses, jurors, law enforcement agents, and others, who will visit our office or the building daily, will require convenient, safe, and secure parking near the new courthouse. Without a new parking ramp being constructed, there will not be sufficient nearby space that can accommodate the varied needs for parking.

Therefore, we fully support your efforts to plan for the future parking needs of downtown Cedar Rapids by building a new parking ramp near the new federal courthouse. Please feel free to share this letter of support as you deem necessary.

Sincerely,


MATT M. DUMMERMUTH
United States Attorney

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT
625 First Street S.E., Suite 200
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

MICHAEL J. MELLOY
United States Circuit Judge

Telephone: 319-363-7580
FAX: 319-363-6363
Michael_Melloy@ca8.uscourts.gov

July 30, 2009

The Honorable Kay Halloran
Mayor, City of Cedar Rapids
City Clerk's Office
Flood Relocation Site
"AEGON" Building
3851 River Ridge Drive NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

Dear Mayor Halloran:

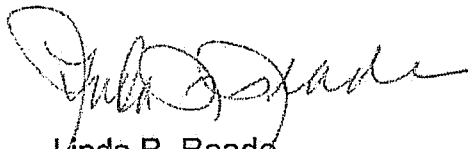
The undersigned have been involved in all phases of the design of the new Cedar Rapids federal courthouse. One of the issues that has come up frequently during the design is parking near the new courthouse facility.

We estimate that there will be approximately 340 employees working in the courthouse when it opens. There will be some onsite parking, but no more than 40 spaces. This leaves 300 employees who will need to find parking near the new facility. In addition, we are very concerned about parking needs for jurors and visitors to the courthouse. On any given day, there can easily be over 100 jurors appearing for trial and grand jury proceedings. Added to that, are the numerous attorneys, trial participants, and other visitors to the courthouse. In short, a parking facility adjacent to or very near the courthouse is a critical necessity.

We might add that our concerns principally relate to the practical utilization of the courthouse itself. We know from the City's prospective that the courthouse will also be an economic development driver for all of downtown, and particularly, the south end of the downtown district. Without adequate parking, it is difficult to see how the economic potential for the area around the courthouse can be fully realized.

We strongly support the City's application for an I-Jobs grant to fund the construction of a parking ramp adjacent to or near the new federal courthouse in Cedar Rapids.

The Honorable Kay Halloran
July 30, 2009
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda R. Reade".

Linda R. Reade
Chief Judge, U.S. District Court
Northern District of Iowa

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael J. Mellor".

Michael J. Mellor
U.S. Circuit Judge
Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals

WWW.RYANCOMPANIES.COM

RYAN COMPANIES US, INC.
625 First Street SE, Suite 460
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-2032

319-731-2800 *tel*
319-731-2900 *fax*



July 29, 2009

Honorable Kay Halloran
Mayor
City of Cedar Rapids
2851 River Ridge Rd NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Dear Mayor Halloran:

I am writing regarding the I-JOBS program and one particular project worthy of Council support. I am referring to the parking ramp under consideration for the 7th Avenue and 2nd Street SE area.

Our company has been charged with the construction of the new Federal Courthouse. It is one of many projects in this part of downtown with a "Ryan imprint". Others on the list include the IMAX facility and the GreatAmerica Building. We are also involved in the planning related to repositioning the Great Furniture Mart Building, as well as a potential new office tower project.

The provision of parking for customers and staff is always a key ingredient in planning for new facilities. This is especially true in an urban area where availability and cost of land complicate the situation. Parking was often on the agenda when the Courthouse was being planned. The creation of a ramp was seen as the only likely option to provide parking for the several hundred government employees and the citizens who will visit the building daily. As an example, we talked about large jury pools, many of them out-of-towners, who would need convenient, accessible parking.

I can also confirm that any time we take a potential tenant through the Great Furniture Mart Building or show blueprints to a company interested in a new downtown tower, the conversation often turns to parking. A new ramp is a commonly suggested and appropriate solution to this parking question. It is even more logical given the probable loss of parking south of 8th Avenue because of the flood levee plan.

I realize that the Council has a very challenging task ahead as you try to place some priority on the various I-JOBS applications. I strongly recommend that a ramp for this area of town be placed high on the list. It will solve problems caused by the loss of parking related to the flood and ensure there is a parking solution that will enable us to convert the Great Furniture Mart Building and propose other exciting and property tax-paying projects in the area.

Sincerely,
RYAN COMPANIES US, INC.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marc Gullickson", written in a cursive style.

Marc Gullickson,
President, Ryan Iowa



July 28, 2009

Mayor Kay Halloran
Cedar Rapids City Hall
3851 River Ridge Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

Dear Mayor Halloran:

Few things would do more to boost our ability to rebuild downtown than getting help in building a new parking ramp at the south edge of downtown. With available land, the catalyst of the new federal courthouse and plenty of developer and business interest, the area is primed for growth. But it simply won't happen if we can't solve the parking capacity issue.

The existing GreatAmerica office tower has 450 employees that we could lose if we don't address their parking problems. The federal courts will have some 340 employees who will need parking as soon as that facility is complete. And to that, development plans in various stages of progress would add three additional commercial buildings (two new and one renovation) in the next 2-4 years, with additional development possible over the next 5-10 years, all within one block of the proposed parking structure. The proposed parking structure would support more than 700 of these new and/or retained jobs, plus more than 200 construction jobs.

Parking is the one missing piece of essential infrastructure we need in order for this area to become one of the City's fastest areas for job growth and tax base appreciation.

The Cedar Rapids Downtown District strongly endorses your efforts to secure the State of Iowa's assistance through the I-Jobs Program for downtown parking ramp project, and we look forward to showcasing our economic success when we get the new parking ramp in place.

Good luck and thank you for promoting this important project as a community priority.

Regards,

Douglas Neumann
President/CEO
Cedar Rapids Downtown District

2001 DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Board of Directors

Thomas L. Aller
Steven F. Dummermuth, Sr.
Joe Hladky
Dianne M. Lyons
Clark E. McLeod
Ted Schwartz
John Smith

James E. Hoffman
Executive Manager

July 29, 2009

The Honorable Kay Halloran
Mayor – City of Cedar Rapids
2851 River Ridge Rd NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Dear Mayor Halloran:

As you know, 2001 Development Corporation has been working for over twenty years on projects with the city and local business to create jobs and vital infrastructure in our downtown business district. Critical to the development of our most recent area of focus near the new Federal Courthouse is the immediate design and development of a new parking ramp to serve the needs of this area. I want to let you know of our strong support of your application to the I-JOBS board for support of this important and 'shovel-ready' project providing for 570 spaces.

With the landmark groundbreaking of the new Federal Courthouse project and with 2001 Development Corporation's decision to begin development work in the adjacent area of downtown, adequate and convenient parking become a linchpin issue to moving forward. In fact, without this critical piece of infrastructure, it is unlikely that we will be able to attract the type of tenant that can deliver the high-caliber jobs and amenities that will spark a new era for downtown development. In addition, no one can argue the need to help Cedar Rapids downtown business district get back on its feet and position itself for the next generation workforce that will be required. Our belief as a result is that this project fits the exact criteria that the Governor and the Legislature envisioned when they approved this landmark program.

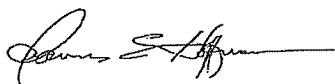
An added feature of this project is how quickly we can move forward should we receive this funding. The City already owns the land, architects and engineers have already agreed upon the design, and the need is clearly there. In fact, when all the pieces fit together, it is likely that this ramp will be full and self-sustaining as a result of the jobs it will create. Based on this award, it is viewed that we could be under construction either late this fall or when construction season starts next spring.

Mayor Kay Halloran
City of Cedar Rapids
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Kay, as the Executive Manager for 2001 Development Corporation and a longtime supporter and developer of properties in downtown Cedar Rapids for Teleconnect, MCI, and Alliant Energy, I want you to know how critical it is for this ramp to be funded. With the impact of the flood reducing valuations significantly, I realize that traditional city bonding capacity for downtown infrastructure has been severely affected. It makes the I-JOBS application and priority that much more critical, and without this ramp, I reiterate that little to nothing will happen in this part of downtown going forward.

Thanks for your effort and for supporting this project. We wish you the best with the I-JOBS process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James E. Hoffman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James E. Hoffman
Executive Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 0735-07-09

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/LINN COUNTY
COMMUNITY TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE I-JOBS LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE
COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the I-JOBS Local Infrastructure Competitive Grant program was adopted by the State of Iowa Legislature to provide infrastructure investment funding to mitigate disaster recovery from the Flood of 2008, and to provide for employment while stimulating and promoting long term economic growth, and

WHEREAS, the I-JOBS program will provide \$118.5 million to be distributed in competitive grants available for reconstruction of local public buildings and flood control prevention in communities from devastation of the Flood of 2008 throughout the state of Iowa, and the Cedar Rapids/Linn County community will be submitting 23 (twenty-three) competitive grant applications for projects to the I-JOBS Grant Program, including:

- Linn County – Administrative Office – Rebuild and Energy Efficiency
- Linn County – Juvenile Law Center
- City of Cedar Rapids – Reconstruction of Public Parking Ramps
- City of Cedar Rapids – Parking Access Revenue Control System (PARCS)
- City of Cedar Rapids – Downtown Parking Structure
- City of Cedar Rapids – 3rd Street S.E. Streetscape Improvements
- City of Cedar Rapids – Intermodal Transportation Facility (ITF)
- City of Cedar Rapids – Anaerobic Biogas System Improvements
- City of Cedar Rapids – Edgewood Road Reconstruction at Cedar River
- City of Cedar Rapids – 6th Street SW Reconstruction
- City of Cedar Rapids – Highway 100
- City of Cedar Rapids – US Cellular Center Improvements & Events Center Construction
- City of Cedar Rapids – Acquisition of Flood-Blighted Downtown Properties
- City of Cedar Rapids – Façade of Improvement Incentive Program (F.A.C.E.)
- City of Cedar Rapids – Multigenerational Community Life Center – PLAY
- City of Cedar Rapids – Joint Communications Network
- City of Cedar Rapids – Cedar Rapids Public Library Main Facility
- City of Cedar Rapids – Demolition and remediation of the buildings located on the 1100 block of 3rd St S.E. (formerly Quality Chef)
- Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce – Economic Commerce Center
- African American Heritage Foundation of Iowa – African American Museum
- Legion Arts – Restoration of CSPA Hall
- Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa – JA World
- Indian Creek Nature Center – From Flood to Flowers – Crafting a LEED Nature Center
- Headquarters in the Beauty of Prairie Flowers

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA that the above noted projects are hereby endorsed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA that submission of applications for the City of Cedar Rapids for the above noted projects are hereby authorized.

Passed this 22nd day of July, 2009.

Voting: Council member Podzimek moved the adoption of the resolution; seconded by Council member Wieneke. Adopted, Ayes, Council members Fagan, Gulick, McGrane, Podzimek, Shey, Shields, Vernon, Wieneke and Mayor Halloran.

Kay Halloran, Mayor

Attest:

Ann Ollinger, City Clerk